(Ireland.)

Copy of a printed LETTER from *Edward Hay*, styling himself, 'Secretary to the General Committee of the Catholics in Ireland, sitting 'in Dublin,' to the Catholics in the different Counties throughout *Ireland*:—Transmitted by His Grace The LORD LIEUTENANT, on the 12th February 1811, and received on the 14th Instant.

SIR,

I AM directed by the General Committee of the Catholics of Ireland, to solicit your particular attention on the present occasion.

The Committee being entrusted with the Petition of the Catholic Body, feel it incumbent on them to state to you, their conviction of the imperative necessity of an increase of their Numbers, so that there may be Managers of the Petition connected with every part of Ireland. It is highly desirable, that the Committee should become the depository of the collective wisdom of the Catholic Body. That it should be able to ascertain, in order to obey, the wishes, and clearly understand the wants, of all their Catholic Fellow Subjects.

This is the more requisite at the present moment, when there appears to be so near a prospect of complete emancipation; and the Committee are convinced, that their emancipation can now be retarded, only by criminal apathy or neglect amongst the Catholics themselves.

They beg leave to suggest to you, the propriety of appointing Ten Managers of the Petition in your County. There are now survivors of the persons who were Delegates in the year 1793: These persons are already Constituent Members of the Committee; and as such, Managers of the Petition; so that you have to appoint only additional Managers.

The Committee desire to add, that by the Law, as it now stands, no species of delegation or representation can be suffered to take place; nor can any person, without a gross violation of the Law, be a Representative or Delegate, or act under any name as a Representative or Delegate. Engaged, as we are, in a struggle for Legal and Constitutional Rights, it is our duty, as well as our inclination and decided determination, not to violate the spirit, nor even the letter of the Law. It is at the same time, to be observed, that the Law to which we allude, does not interfere with the Subject's undoubted Right to petition Parliament; nor of course with the only method by which so large a body as the Catholics of Ireland could concur in forwarding a Petition; namely, by leaving the management of it in the hands of a few Persons, who deserve and possess their confidence.

And the Committee cannot refrain, on this occasion, from calling to your recollection the words of that celebrated Champion of Loyalty and Religion, *Edmund Burke*, relative to the Irish Catholics: "Your Enemies are embodied, what "becomes of you if you are only Individuals?"

The Committee does not presume to interfere with the mode in which you shall think fit to nominate those Managers of the Petition; save that it must not be by any Election or Appointment to represent any person or persons, or any district or place whatsoever. They moreover beg leave to suggest the propriety of expedition; and request that you will have the goodness to reply to this Letter, and to state your sentiments on this subject, adding, if it shall so please you, the Names of Persons, whom you conceive most fit to manage the Petition in your County.

In appointing those Managers, the Committee respectfully solicit your particular attention to the many advantages to be derived from naming Managers, whose avocations require, or leisure permits their permanent or occasional residence in Dublin, where the ultimate arrangements, as to the Petition, can best be made. I have further to observe to you, that all the Noble Lords who constitute the Catholic Peerage, are already Managers of the Petition.

I have the honour to be,
Your most faithful humble Servant,
(Signed) *Edward Hay*, Secretary.

Dublin, No. 4, Capel-Street,
January 1, 1811.

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Ordered by The House of Commons, *to be printed*, 20 *February* 1811.

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